

Message Text

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USDEL NO. 3 - FINAL REPORT

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SUBJ: SUMMARY - FINAL REPORT - VII ANNUAL MEETING INTER-AMERICAN
CONCIL FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (CIECC)

1. SUMMARY. IN THE VIEW OF SEVERAL PRACTICED OAS HANDS, VII CIECC WHICH CONCLUDED 31 JAN. WAS ONE OF MOST WORKMANLIKE, CONTROVERSY-FREE MEETINGS IN RECENT MEMORY. THIS ATTRIBUTABLE PARTLY TO ROUTINE NATURE OF AGENDA AND PARTLY TO TECHNICALLY-SPECIALIZED QUALITY OF MOST DELEGATIONS, THIRTEEN OF WHICH WERE HEADED BY MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND SEVEN BY VICE MINISTERS. THREE DELS WERE LED BY AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING PANAMA'S PITY, AND BOLIVA CHOSE NOT TO COME. AFTER INTIAL SHOCK CAUSED BY U.S. PLEDGE (\$4 MILLION LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S), CORDIAL, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. DEL AND OTHER DELS PERSISTED THROUGHOUT MEETIN. HEW UNDER-SECRETARY MARJORIE LYNCH'S PRESENCE AS HEAD OF U.S. DEL RECEIVED FAVORABLE RECOGNITION BY LATIN DELS AND LOCAL PRESS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CIECC'S FOUR WORKING COMMITTEES:

2. EDUCATION. NO IMPORTANT INITIATIVES. COMMITTEE CALLED FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS AND INSTRUCTED AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW STATUS OF THEIR EXECUTION. IT URGED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD MOST BENEFIT POOREST
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MEMBERS AND SUGGESTED THE DESIRABILITY OF JOINT OAS-UNESCO EDUCATION

PROGRAMS IN LA.

3. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. BUDGET CONSTRAINTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS RESULTING FROM LOWER U.S. PLEDGE AND FROM NEWLY APPROVED 50-50 SPLIT OF FUNDS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION (SCIENCE NOW GETS 60PERCENT) WAS PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. JMMRTS TO ADJUST TO NEW SITUATION WILL INCLUDE SECRETARIAT POLL ASKING MEMBERS TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES AMONG VARIOUS SCIENCE/ TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS THEY PARTICIPATE IN. ONLY SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE OF COMMITTEE WAS APPROVAL OF CARIBBEAN GROUP PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CARIBBEAN SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SUB-REGION.

4. CULTURE. COMMITTEE APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO GA A DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL AND OTHER "CULTURAL HERITAGE" ARTIFACTS. U.DUK DEL ABSTAINED, BASING OPPOSITION PRINCIPALLY ON IMPOSSIBILITY OF ENFORCEMENT. ONE OR TWO OTHER DELS EXPRESSED PRIVATE SKEPTICISM OVER CONVENTION'S WINNING GA ACCEPTANCE DESPITE VOTE HERE.

5. PROGRAM AND BUDGET. AS RESULT U.S. PLEDGE REDUCTION A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANNOUNED PLANS REVISE THEIR PLEDGES DOWNWARD IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN TWO TO ONE MATCHING RATION. AS RESULT, BUDGET RESOLUTION APPROVED BY PLENARY WAS QUALIFIED AS PROVISIONAL AND INCLUDED INSTRUCTIONS TO SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE NEW SUGGESTED PLEDGE LEVELS BASED ON REDUCED U.S. INPUT. REFLECTING HOPE U.S. WILL REVISE ITS PLEDGE UPWARD, RESOLUTION SET NEW APRIL 15 DEADLINE FOR FINAL PLEDGE DETERMINATIONS. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS OF COMMITTEE INCLUDED:

A) RESOLUTION INSTRUCTING CEP/CIECC TO SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES FOR APPROVING MAR DE PLATA PROGRAMS AND GETTING THEM UNDERWAY.

B) SUBMISSION TO CEP/CIECC AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR STUDY A CHILEAN PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE THE OAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE ALONG FUNCTIONAL LINES.

C) APPROVAL OF URUGUAY'S OFFER TO HOST NEXT YEAR'S CIECC.
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